



A and B are two very thick parallel wires, distant enough to take in easily between them the planet and Ring. I measure the apparent elongation or the angle a or a' of a Satellite x from the line of vision or the angle a or a' , the planet in first place between the wires so as in (fig 1) to stand symmetrically of which the eye will judge with extreme precision - the graduated division being read off. They are next placed as in fig 2. and it is surprising how very correctly with a little practice this may be done so that the line Sa shall be parallel to the direction of the wires. This being done alter- nately 3, 5 or 7 times (so as to leave off with the position No 1.) - all change of situation with respect to the horizon &c. is eliminated.

The last astronomical novelty of the Southern hemisphere is one of very great interest. The Star of Argus (marked in Bode's Map as γ Procyon Caroli) has always hitherto been regarded as a Star of the second magnitude or at most as (2.1). During the form years I have had (it as it were) continually under my eye, by reason of the great nebula which surrounds it, and of which I have been taking most careful drawings - I have always considered it as (2.1) and never had reason to suppose it variable. In Nov. 1837 I saw it as usual. Judge of my surprise to find on the 16. 17. December that it had suddenly become a Star of the first magnitude and almost equal to Rigel. - It continued to increase. Rigel is now not to be compared with it, it exceeds Acturus, and is very nearly equal to α Centauri, being at the moment when I wrote, the fourth Star in the heavens in order of brightness! I remain, Gentlemen, Your obliged and faithful Servant
J. W. Herschel.

P.S. You will oblige me by communicating the above mentioned fact respecting γ Argus to Prof. Schumacher, as perhaps he may think it worth noticing in the Astron. Nachrichten.

P.S. The total eclipse of the moon last year was finely seen here. The whole disk was well seen with the naked eye, intensely red like a glowing coal - all the spots well seen in the eclipsed part - many occultations took place of very minute stars and a faint nebula was traced up almost to the very edge of the disk. - It would have been interesting indeed to have seen a nebula occulted.

Rem. Warden of the
Golf - (Hutchins & Co.)
each Father & Son